equipments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Tourism related equipment is generally available in the country. However, to meet certain specialised needs, import of equipment is allowed in accordance with policy in this regard.

Regional Steel Consumer Councils

3197. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and places whether Regional Steel Consumer Councils have been set up and have started functioning;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more such councils in every State capital; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No Regional Steel Consumer Councils have been set up by the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Post and Telegraph Offices in Rural Area

3198. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices to be opened in rural areas of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the criteria laid down for opening new post and telegraph office in rural areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Expansion of postal network in the rural areas of the country is envisaged during the Eighth Five Year plan. It is, however, not feasible to give details in this regard as the Eighth Plan has not been finalised.

As regards the telegraph office, the plan proposal envisages provision of telegraph facility at about 21200 places in rural areas of the country depending upon the feasibility during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Th criteria laid down by the Department for opening of new post offices in rural areas are given in attached statement.

Presently, telegraph facility in rural areas is provided on phonocom basis using long distance public telephones depending upon the demand and feasibility.

STATEMENT

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas. (effective from 1-4-91)

The followed normal for opening branch post offices effective from 1-4-1991 have been adopted.

(i) *Population:*–

(a) *In rural areas:* 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) *In the hilly, tribal desert and Inaccessible area:* 500 population in

an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

(II) *Distance:–*

(a) *In normal areas:–* The minimum distance from the nearest existing post offices will be 3kms.

(b) *In hilly, tribal desert and Inaccessible areas*: The distance limit will be the same as above except that in hilly areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

(iii) *Anticipated income:–*

(a) *In normal areas:–* The anticipated minimum revenue will be 33 1/3% of Est.

(b) *In hilly, tribal, desert and Inaccessible areas:* The nimimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

[English]

Hydro Electric Projects

3199. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON–CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the power potential capacity of Sharda river basin;

(b) the details of the Tanakpur project in the Sharda river basin; and

(c) the details of Dhauli–Ganga hydro electric project in pithoragarh district of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON–CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) As per the studies carried out in the Central Electricity Authority, the hydro–electric potential of the Sharda river has been estimated as 3008 MW at 60% load factor.

(b) Tanakpur Hydro–electric Project in Nainital District of Uttar Pradesh is a run–of–the–river scheme on river Sharda with a generating capacity of 120 MW. The project is expected to generate 460 MUs of electricity in a 90% dependable year. The project is likely to be commissioned in March, 1992.

(c) Dhauli-ganga Hydro–electric Project, Stage–I, in Pithoragarh District of U. P. is a run–of–the–river scheme with a generating capacity of 280 MW. The project is expected to generate 1134 MUs of electricity in a 90% dependable year. It is likely to be commissioned in Sept' 1998.

Acquisition of Modern Equipments by Bangalore Airport

3200. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bangalore airport has been equipped with modern equipments especially with Non-directional beacon, very high Frequency Directional range. Instrument Landing System and Distance Measuring Equipment;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any plan for expansion of Airports in Karnataka; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, airport–wise?